

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03  
NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 TRSE-00 BIB-01 CU-04 HA-05 /086 W  
-----033145 021533Z /43

O 021256Z DEC 77  
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2523  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0653

FROM MBFR REPRESENTATIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MBFR NATO PARM  
SUBJ: MBFR BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET DEPREP OF DECEMBER 1,  
1977

1. IN DISCUSSION ON MARGINS OF DEC 1 PLENARY, US DEP REP ASKED  
SOVIET DEP REP SHUSTOV WHETHER SOVIET DELEGATION HAD AS YET  
RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL WHICH  
THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAD SUBMITTED TO MOSCOW CONCERNING THE  
MODALITIES OF EXCHANGE OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER, I.E., THE NOVEMBER  
17 PROPOSAL REPORTED IN PARA 10 OF MBFR 615. SHUSTOV REPLIED THAT  
A REPLY HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. US DEP REP ASKED WHETHER THE  
REPLY WOULD BE RECEIVED SOON. SHUSTOV SAID HE COULD NOT TELL.  
HE COULD ASSURE US DEPREP THAT IT WAS PURELY A TECHNICAL PROBLEM  
WITH NO POLITICAL CONSIDERATION BEHIND IT. BUT THE ISSUE WAS  
COMPLICATED AND REQUIRED A GREAT DEAL OF COORDINATION IN EASTERN  
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CAPITALS. IN THE CASE OF THE DIVISION OF WARSAW TREATY GROUND  
FORCES BETWEEN MAJOR FORMATIONS AND OTHERS, THE DISCUSSION  
HAD BECOME SO COMPLICATED THAT SHUSTOV HIMSELF HAD HAD TO COME  
OFF LEAVE DURING THE RECESS ON THREE OCCASIONS TO LEND A HAND.  
US DEP REP ASKED WHETHER SHUSTOV EXPECTED TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS  
ON THIS SUBJECT DURING THE PRESENT ROUND. SHUSTOV REPLIED,  
PROBABLY NOT. US DEP REP SAID, THEN THE OUTLOOK FOR DATA EXCHANGE

DURING THE PRESENT ROUND WAS NOT GOOD. US DEP REP ASKED WHETHER THE SOVIETS COULD NOT AGREE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES TO EXCHANGE GROUND FORCE MANPOWER ALONE TOGETHER WITH A COMMITMENT TO EXCHANGE AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE NEXT ROUND. SHUSTOV SAID THIS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. AIR MANPOWER DATA HAD TO BE EXCHANGED IN THE PRESENT ROUND OR THERE COULD BE NO EXCHANGE OF DATA IN THE PRESENT ROUND. US DEP REP ASKED WHETHER THE WEST COULD NOT TABLE DATA AS SHUSTOV HAD PROPOSED, ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN OF ITS GROUND FORCE EXCHANGE AND THE EAST WOULD THEN TABLE A SINGLE FIGURE FOR EACH NATIONAL AIR FORCE COMPONENT. SHUSTOV REPLIED FLATLY THAT IN THIS EVENT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO EXCHANGE AIR FORCE DATA. HE SAID HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IF THE WEST WOULD TABLE A SINGLE FIGURE FOR THE AIR FORCE MANPOWER OF EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT, PLUS A COMPOSITE FIGURE FOR AIR FORCE PERSONNEL IN MULTILATERAL WESTERN HEADQUARTERS. THE EAST WOULD SUBMIT A SINGLE FIGURE FOR THE AIR FORCE MANPOWER OF EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT. THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY HE COULD SEE TO EXCHANGE AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE PRESENT ROUND. US DEP REP ASKED SHUSTOV WHETHER THE EAST WAS PREPARED TO STATE THAT IT WOULD EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF DIVIDING AIR FORCE MANPOWER ACCORDING TO A FORMULA PROVIDED BY THE WEST AND REPLY IN THE NEXT ROUND. SHUSTOV SAID THE EAST COULD NOT DO MORE THAN TAKE NOTE OF THIS PROPOSAL. US DEP REP ASKED WHETHER THE EAST WAS PREPARED TO COME TO A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION ON THE ISSUE OF THE EAST'S DEMANDS THAT THE WEST ACCEPT LIMITATIONS ON ITS RIGHT TO ASK FUTURE QUESTIONS.

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SHUSTOV SAID THAT ONE SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS ISSUE TOO SERIOUSLY AND THAT HE BELIEVED THAT A SOLUTION SHOULD BE POSSIBLE BUT THAT US REP SHOULD DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH TARASOV LATER IN THE DAY.

2. US REPS INFORMED UK AND FRG REPS OF THE ABOVE CONVERSATION THE SAME DAY AND INFORMED THE AD HOC GROUP OF IT ON DECEMBER 2. RESOR

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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